(d) whether the dialogue cannot be kept with Pakistan on, to find a lasting solution to this vexed Kashmir problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Government is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful discussions, as envisaged under the Simla Agreement and reaffirmed in the Lahore Declaration. India has called upon Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism and abandon hostile propaganda so that an environment appropriate for a dialogue is created.

Downsizing in the Establishment of MEA

1306. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has prepared a road map for a drastic cut in the establishment of his Ministry including the foreign Mission abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated savings which accrue as a result of the downsizing; and

(d) whether the diplomatic requirements of the country have been adequately protected before resorting to the downsizing of the embassy staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, Sir.

Britain's Continued Sale of Arms to Pakistan

1307. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Britain will continue arms sale to Pakistan and has not lifted the ban on the same; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The British Government announced on 5th July, 2000, that they have issued 20 standard individual export licenses to Pakistan for a narrow and well-defined range of equipment, such as naval spares, bomb disposal equipment, goods for civilian end users.

(b) The Government have conveyed their concerns to the British Government through the Indian High Commission in London. Government propose to remain in touch with the British Government in this regard.

China's stand after the visit of Indian President

1308. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what modifications have been made by China as a Result of the recent official visit of the President of India to that country with regard to Chinese stand relating to India's insistance to maintain a reliable nuclear deterrent and the Pokhran N-test?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): The nuclear issue was not raised by the Chinese side during the President's visit to China (28 May—3 June 2000). Both sides agree that differences, including on the nuclear issue, should not be an impediment to improvement of bilateral relations.

US programme on Nuclear Missile Defence System

1309. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US is going ahead with its Nuclear Missile Defence System;

(b) whether this will disturb the balance of power and create an asymmetric situation of nuclear capability which would become a serious threat to the world peace; and

(c) if so, Government views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The US is developing defence systems against different kinds of missiles, including against inter-continental ballistic missiles using conventional "hit-to-kill" interceptors. Since October 1999 three tests with this interceptor have been conducted of which two have failed; further tests are scheduled. The US programme also envisages the development of advanced early warning sensors, including a radar at Shemya in Alaska.